For immediate release

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Local Bike/Ped Advocacy Group Comments on Death of Amber Harrington

Prescott, Arizona, January 19, 2015

Prescott Alternative Transportation president Russ Willis said Monday he was "dismayed at the needless death of Amber Harrington on a public roadway" last Friday.

"We have not seen a police report yet," said Russ, "but there is no reason a person on foot or on a bicycle should not be able to safely use the roads in this city. If a motorist is driving at a speed that is safe for existing conditions, including the presence of other users on the roadway, and if he is keeping a lookout for pedestrians and cyclists, this simply need not happen."

"That being said," Mr. Willis continued, "there is no signage on that stretch of White Spar -- and more to the point no pavement markings -- alerting motorists to the presence of bicyclists on the road." The posted limit of thirty m.p.h., he said, is routinely not observed, and "the existing road design encourages speeding."

Mr. Willis again expressed his wish that bicycle and pedestrian advocates have "a seat at the table" when road projects are designed and when decisions are made to improve safety on existing roads. "We have been in conversation with various individuals in city government to make this happen," he said. "The time is now."

Mr. Willis said he had heard there might be an effort by some members of the community to memorialize the site of Ms. Harrington's death by placing a "ghost bike" there.

Prescott Alternative Transportation is a nonprofit membership organization working to improve bicycle and pedestrian access to public roadways in and around Prescott.

Contact Russ Willis, president, at rawillis3@juno.com. Any changes or updates will be posted to the PAT website, http://prescottbikeped.org/.

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